

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 GUATEM 00083 071821Z

46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 OC-06 CCO-00

OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /144 W

----- 035032

R 071730Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1696

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 0083

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, GT

SUBJECT: RAILWAY WORKERS' UNION BEGINS PARTIAL STRIKE

SUMMARY: ON JANUARY 2, RAILWAY WORKERS' UNION (SAMF) BEGAN PROGRESSIVE STRIKE AGAINST NATIONAL RAILWAY (FEGUA) TO PROTEST LACK OF PROGRESS IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR NEW CONTRACT. STRIKES, WHICH ARE HELD DAILY FOR SHORT PERIOD, HAVE BEEN 100 PERCENT EFFECTIVE IN STOPPING RAIL SERVICE. GOG HAS CALLED STRIKES ILLEGAL AND LABOR MINISTER HAS LINKED UNION ACTION TO "EXTREMIST POLITICAL ORDERS." END SUMMARY.

1. ON JANUARY 2, SAMF INITIATED DAILY WORK STOPPAGES AGAINST FEGUA TO PROTEST LACK OF PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATION OF NEW COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT TO REPLACE LAST AGREEMENT REACHED IN 1965. UNION HAS DEMANDED 50 PERCENT SALARY INCREASE (WHICH IS STANDARD "FIRST POSITION" AMONG GUATEMALAN UNIONS), BUT HAS OFFERED TO ACCEPT DRASTIC PERSONNEL CUTBACKS TO PUT FEGUA STAFFING IN LINE WITH MANPOWER NEEDS. FEGUA REFUSES TO CONSIDER ANY SALARY INCREASE, CLAIMING THAT FINANCIAL POSITION OF COMPANY (WHICH IS DISASTROUS) RULES THIS OUT. WORK STOPPAGES HAVE BEEN HELD DAILY AND APPEAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GUATEM 00083 071821Z

TO BE 100 PERCENT EFFECTIVE TO PARALYZING FEGUA FOR A BRIEF PERIOD EACH DAY. SAMF STATES THAT THE STOPPAGES, WHICH ARE

PROGRESSIVELY ONE HOUR LONGER EACH DAY, WILL CONTINUE UNTIL
FEGUA CONCEDES A PAY RAISE.

2. GOG HAS RESPONDED TO SAMF ACTION BY POINTING OUT ITS
ILLEGALITY AND STRESSING FEGUA'S POOR ECONOMIC CONDITION.
MINISTER OF LABOR, WHO IS PROBABLY STILL SMARTING FROM
HAVING BEEN LABELLED ON DECEMBER 27 "NUMBER ONE ENEMY OF
LABOR" BY BULK OF TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, WARNED THAT UNION
LEADERS HAD STEPPED OUT OF BOUNDS OF LEGITIMATE TRADE UNION
ACTIVITY AND PUT THEMSELVES AT DISPOSAL OF "EXTREMIST
POLITICAL ORDERS."

3. COMMENT: GOG ALREADY SUBSIDIZES FEGUA HEAVILY TO
GUARANTEE REGULAR PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND IS PROBABLY NOT
EAGER TO AUGMENT SUBSIDY BY RAISING PAY. SAMF, HOWEVER, IS
CAPABLE OF FULLY PARALYZING RAIL TRANSPORT AND APPEARS NOT
TO WORRY ABOUT POSSIBLE RETALIATION FOR CONDUCTING ILLEGAL
STRIKE. AFTER FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH FEGUA AND MINISTRY
OF FINANCE, WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEGUN, GOG MAY WELL AGREE TO
MODEST PAY RAISE TO KEEP PROBLEM FROM GROWING INTO SERIOUS
ISSUE. END COMMENT.

DECONTROL DEC. 31, 1975.
DREYFUSS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, WAGES, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, RAILROADS, LABOR STRIKES, ILLEGAL STRIKES, LABOR AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GUATEM00083
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740159/aaaacdts.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAILWAY WORKERS' UNION BEGINS PARTIAL STRIKE SUMMARY: ON JANUARY 2, RAILWAY WORKERS' UNION (SAMF)
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ETRN, GT, SAMF, FEGUA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005